

Serena Echols
(773) 610-1548
serena.a.echols@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Spelman College Atlanta, GA

B.S. Environmental Science

University of South Florida Tampa, FL

M.A. Applied Anthropology, Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Graduated May 2023

Magna Cum Laude

Expected Graduation May 2026

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

- **Corella & Bertram Bonner Scholar** - The Bonner Program provides a scholarship to students in exchange for weekly commitment to intensive and meaningful service with a local community organization over the four years as an undergraduate student with our campus partners.
- **National Society of Leadership and Success Scholar**- The National Society of Leadership and Success is a leadership program and honors society that helps students achieve personal growth, career success and empowers them to have a positive impact in their communities.
- **The Wentcher Foundation Scholar**- Wentcher Foundation is the scholarship organization that creates equitable opportunities for high-achieving Chicago-area students to earn a college degree and go on to positively impact their communities.
- **Chicago Scholar & Ambassador**- Chicago Scholars is an academically ambitious seven-year program that helps students to navigate the complex transitions into college, through college, and beyond to a career.
- **HBCU Green Fund Atlanta University Center Energy Fellowship**- AUC Energy fellowship trains students across the energy landscape including Wind, Solar, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, and Energy Auditing.
- **Women of Excellence and Leadership at Spelman (WELS)**- The WELS program is an intense leadership experience where students participate in a series of seminars, assignments, and projects designed to develop authentic and engaged community leaders. WELS Scholars learn leadership skills for personal, professional, and global application.

WORK/INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Student Conservation Association Atlanta, GA— *Crew Leader*

May 2023- August 2023

- Supervised and created a safe space for women of color to learn, grow and gain new technical skills.
- Worked on service projects, including invasive species, removal, habitat restoration, litter abatement and trail work at the Outdoor Activity Center Nature Preserve.
- Train crew members on hand and power tools, equipment maintenance, trail maintenance and construction, Justice Equity Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) training, emotional first aid, plant and tree identification, and urban forestry.

REDES EcoSpring Break Trip, HBCU GreenFund Dakar, Senegal, West Africa— *Volunteer*

March 2023

- Completed an International Service-Learning Program held at the Village of Moundouwaye and R.E.D.ES. Community center in Lahel, Municipality of Gamadji Sare Region de Saint Louis, Senegal.
- Planted over 100 trees in the at the community center in Lahel in efforts to restore a fruit forest in the Eco Village.
- Experience cultural exchanges through living with two hist families while traveling from the city of Dakar to Village of Moundouwaye.

Urban Water Sustainability REU, University of South Florida Tampa, FL — *Researcher*

June 2022 - July 2022

- Performed research pertaining to environmental justice in a community that had their drinking water contaminated with chlorinated solvents.
- Conducted interviews transcribed interviews and analyze the results to determine how the community perceives risk, drinking water contamination, and justice.

Spelman College Civic Engagement Officer Atlanta, GA — *Class Representative*

August 2021 – May 2023

- Led and organized community service initiatives and events with classmates
- Maintained strong relationships with community partners by evaluations, bi-weekly meetings with consistent status/need updates.
- Managed and recruited volunteers; maintained volunteer database.

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance Atlanta, GA — *Preservation & Conservation Intern*

June 2021 – August 2023

- Fostered connections in the nonprofit sector through mentorship, training, and measurable learning objectives.
- Invasive species research through vegetation studies in urban Old Growth Forest
- Oral History research for historical Bush Mountain Community on the west side of Atlanta, Georgia.

Virtual Student Federal Service program- Atlanta, GA—USDA Forest Service Intern

August 2020- June 2021

- Design, coordinate, and execute digital marketing materials to promote environmental education.
- Supported curriculum development including offering input and insights, editing/ modifying materials, research and analysis, and coordination.
- Maintained consistent and professional communication with the organization and program coordinator.

Intercollegiate Neuroscience Research Journal Club (INRJC), Remote — Group Leader

May 2020 - August 2020

- Read, analyzed, and discussed current neuroscience-related papers individually and with other participants, and submit weekly summaries based upon the findings and analysis of each article.
- Participated and led weekly Zoom discussions with students from across the country.

M. Agnes Jones Elementary School, Atlanta, GA — Intern

August 2019 - April 2020

- Assisted teachers with lesson plans.
- Assisted with planning and implementation of fundraising events.
- Tutored first-grade students in STEM Initiatives

Global Glimpse, Constanza, Dominican Republic, Chicago, IL —Intern/Ambassador

December 2018 - June 2019

- After my junior year of high school, I led and participated in activities abroad to enhance my analytical and collaboration skills by experiencing real world global issues.
- Developed leadership and global competency through organizing and executing a Community Action Project with Cristo de Rez, a local Christian baseball team.
- Upon return, I was nominated, and became an ambassador and participated in the Alumni Leadership Summit to recruit future participants and donors.

CERTIFICATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
- Order of the Eastern Star: Member
- Florida Brownfield Association Board of Directors: Student Representative

June 2021

February 2022

August 2022

HONORS & AWARDS

- Spelman College Research Day 2022— Environmental Science 1st Place Winner
- The National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program— Urban Water Substantiality 1st Place Poster Award

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS

- Metro Atlanta's Urban Waters Symposium, Atlanta, GA — Presenter September 2022
- Florida Brownfield Environmental Justice Workshop, Port St. Joe, FL — Presenter July 2022
- Research Experience for Undergraduates University of South Florida Symposium, Tampa, FL — Presenter July 2022
- Echoing Green Social Innovation Masterclass, Virtual —Student Showcase Presenter April 2022
- Spelman College Speaking Engagements
 - Stepping into Service First-Year Student Assembly— Keynote Speaker September 2022
 - Environmental Health Science Townhall— Panelist August 2022
 - Civic Engagement and Social Justice Symposium—Presenter April 2022
 - Spelman College Research Day — Environmental Science Presenter April 2022, April 2023
- Naval Academy Science and Engineering Conference, Annapolis, MD— Presenter November 2022
- Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Cincinnati, OH— Presenter & Panelist March 2023
- Power Shift Conference, New Orleans, LA— Panelist March 2023
- Research Experience for Undergraduates National Conference, Eau Claire, WI— Presenter April 2023

PUBLICATIONS

Msitu: The Old-Growth Forest (Serena Echols, Nia McKenzie, Imani Blue) HBCU Green Fund, JSJ Enterprise & Publishing (2023)

Environmental Justice from the Ground(water) Up: Coping with Contamination in Tallevast, Florida. Local Environment, under review. (Serena. A. Echols, E. C. Wells, G. W. Caballero, and E. H. Peaslee) (2022)

SKILLS

Organization, Computer Literacy, Adaptability, Flexibility, Effective Communication Skills, Dependability, Interpersonal Skills, Strategic Planning, Conflict Resolution, Analyze Data, Ability to work in a team structure, Microsoft Office (Access, Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, Word)